Message Text

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R 131935Z DEC 76 FM AMCONSUL TORONTO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4667 INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA AMCONSUL CALGARY AMCONSUL VANCOUVER AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

UNCLAS TORONTO 2285

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, ELTN, PGOV, CA ZOPN

SUBJECT: COLUMNIST SAYS WASHINGTON HAS LAST WORD ON GAS PIPELINE

1. IN HIS DECEMBER 13 EDITORIAL PAGE OPINION COLUMN DATELINED WASHINGTON, BOGDAN KIPLING IN A SPECIAL TO THE TORONTO STAR REVIEWED THE ALTERNATIVES OF THE MACKENZIE DELTA PIPELINE AND THE EL PASO TANKER PROPOSALS NOW BEFORE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON IN A DECISION-MAKING SCHEDULE DEFINED BY LAW.

2. AFTER DISCUSSING THE ATTRIBUTES OF BOTH PROPOSALS AS THEY AFFECT CANADA, KIPLING CONCLUDED HIS COLUMN:

"WHAT OTTAWA SHOULD TAKE SERIOUSLY IS THE AMERICAN TIMETABLE. CANADIANS MUST NOT THINK THEY HOLD ALL THE ACES BECAUSE THEY MERELY HOLD THE SPOILER. THE GAS RESERVES THAT JUSTIFY THE ARTIC GAS PIPELINE ARE IN ALASKA, NOT CANADA (26 TRILLION CUBIC FEET OF PROVED RESERVES COMPARED TO 3.8 TRILLION). THE MONEY IS IN NEW YORK, NOT TORONTO. IF CANADIANS WANT THE ARCTIC GAS PIPELINE THEY WILL SOON HAVE TO NOD.

"EL PASO SUFFERED A SETBACK LAST WEEK AND MAY SUFFER ANOTHER FROM JUDGE LITT. BUT ITS ALL-AMERICAN ROUTE PROPOSAL IS NOT DEAD. MOREOVER, IT IS BACKED BY ORGANIZED LABOR AND CARTER UNCLASSIFIED

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OWES THE UNIONS A FAVOR OR TWO. KEEPING ALL THOSE

INVESTMENT DOLLARS AT HOME SOUNDS RIGHT TO MOST AMERICANS AND NEW JOBS LOOK GOOD WHEN UNEMPLOYMENT RUNS 8.1 PER CENT.

"CANADIANS SHOULD REMEMBER THE LAST WORD ON THE PIPELINE WILL BE UTTERED IN WASHINGTON."
DIGGINS

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